

HEALTH  
A7402.58  
SA

*Lyme*

Axminster Rural  
Honiton Borough  
Honiton Rural  
Seaton Urban

**Annual Report**  
**OF THE**  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**for 1957**  
**No. 2 AREA**  
**DEVON**

Medical Officer of Health—Duncombe Steele-Perkins.

Public Health Inspectors		Surveyors
Axminster Rural ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough ...	R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural ...	F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Seaton Urban ...	P. Bradley	P. Bradley



# Annual Report

for No. 2 Area for 1957

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL, AND  
SEATON URBAN.

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS, *Medical Officer of Health.*

---

I am presenting this Report for the year 1957, but the work for that year was carried on under the direction of Dr. Duncombe Steele-Perkins, the late Medical Officer of Health, who died on 31st March, 1958. Unfortunately, I did not know Dr. Steele-Perkins, so that the Report for the year will be purely factual and will not contain any general remarks such as Dr. Steele-Perkins with his long experience and wide knowledge of the district might have made. I wish however to pay a tribute to the work of the late Medical Officer of Health. This tribute, I believe from a study of the files and from conversation with many persons, to be justly deserved.

## Infectious Disease.

The total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified has been very similar to that of 1956, however Whooping Cough replaced Measles as the most common Infectious Disease. The actual numbers notified are shown below.

1957							
			Axminster Rural	Honiton Borough	Honiton Rural	Seaton Urban	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	1	2	1	5
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	63	47	44	0	154
Polio ...	...	...	17	0	0	3	20
Measles ...	...	...	22	3	8	0	33
Diphtheria ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	...	...	1	21	11	1	34
Typhoid ...	...	...	0	0	1	0	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	3	0	0	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	...	...	3	3	0	1	7
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			3	0	0	2	5
Dysentery ...	...	...	2	0	0	0	2
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	0	0	0	1
			116	75	66	8	265

## Diphtheria.

No cases were reported during the year, nor have any been reported since. In order that this happy position may continue there can be no relaxation in our effort, and it is up to all parents to see that their children are immunised.

## Food Poisoning.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, but no contaminated food was discovered and no specific organism isolated.

## Poliomyelitis.

20 cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year, 17 in Axminster Rural District and 3 in Seaton. In view of the large number of summer visitors in the coastal strip this was not unexpected, and the number of possible contacts in each case rendered the final total of cases mercifully small.

## Tuberculosis.

The number of cases notified during the year was less than half that notified last year. The Mass Radiography Unit continues to do good work in the area and it is to be hoped that the few remaining foci of infection are steadily being eliminated.

## Cancer,

The number of deaths from Cancer excluding Lung Cancer showed a small increase of five cases over that of last year, the total being 59. The number of cases of Lung Cancer however fell from 11 to 7. A chart is appended giving the number of cases in the area over the last seven years.

Lungs							All types of Cancer including Lungs						
(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957)	(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957)
Axminster Rural. Population 14,230—													
1	3	5	3	1	4	5	24	32	28	23	31	22	36
Honiton Borough. Population 4,770—													
0	0	4	2	2	2	0	1	3	19	8	12	6	13
Honiton Rural. Population 6,920—													
0	2	1	2	1	3	1	14	15	8	9	10	17	9
Seaton Urban. Population 2,950—													
2	0	1	0	2	2	1	10	5	6	10	9	9	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3	5	11	7	6	11	7	49	55	61	50	62	54	66

## Water Supplies.

A close liaison was maintained between the East Devon Water Board and the Medical Officer. Water supplies to the Rural areas have been expanded considerably.

## Food Hygiene.

Many visits to premises handling food were made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year, and a considerable improvement in general conditions is reported. However much work still remains to be done.

R. C. MacLeod, Medical Officer of Health.

# AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	52,135 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	14,230
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£155,672
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£615
No. of Parishes	...	...	...	...	15

## Deaths

1956—(89 males, 104 females)	...	...	...	...	193
1957—(90 males, 91 females)	...	...	...	...	181

## Live Births

1956—(83 males, 89 females)	...	...	...	...	172
5 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 172.					
1957—(83 males, 74 females)	...	...	...	...	157
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 157.					

## Still Births

1956—2 still births were registered	...	...	...	...	2
1957—1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1

## Deaths of Infants under one year

1956—8 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	8
1957—1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1

## Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

1956—7 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	7
1957—1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1

## Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1957 :

	1956	1957
Measles	82	22
Pneumonia	7	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	18	63
Scarlet Fever	5	1
Erysipelas	2	0
Typhoid	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	17
Dysentery	5	2
Food Poisoning	0	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	12	3
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	3
Meningococcal Infection	1	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	132	116

**Infectious Disease.**

The outbreak of Poliomyelitis in the district has already been mentioned in my general remarks. There were no other cases of serious infectious disease.

**Tuberculosis.**

The Mass Radiography Team continues to produce good results and all persons in areas where the team operates are urged to avail themselves of the facilities offered.

**Deaths.**

The deaths registered were 181, as compared with 193 in 1956. This is about the average for the area, and calls for no comment, deaths of infants under 1 year were only 1 compared with 8 in the previous year.

**Births.**

These numbered 157 as against 172 in 1956.

**Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957  
Water Supplies.**

Periodical examination and sampling of the five main private water supplies in the district have been made and their general classification on average is as follows :—

			Class
Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate)	...	...	1
Beer (Clinton Devon Estates)	...	...	1
Colyton (Feoffees) ... ..	...	...	1
Combpyne (Good's supply)	...	...	1
Lyme Regis Water Company	...	...	1

The East Devon Water Board is making excellent progress with the supplying of our district with main water, and I am pleased to note that the Chardstock and Tytherleigh problems will soon be solved. Furthermore, it is to be noted that the Board has now taken over the Beer supply and negotiations continue regarding the Lyme Regis Water takeover.

**Sewerage.**

The Uplyme, Musbury, Whitford and Kilminster Sewerage Schemes have now been completed within the district, and the work of house connections in the majority of cases has been completed. This year has shown a big improvement in the housing standards in the villages concerned with the installation of flush drainage and bathrooms, together with improvement of kitchen facilities.



## Meat and Other Foods.

Three out of the four slaughterhouses licensed in the district continue to kill but, during the year one of these ceased to operate so that now killing only takes place in Axminster and Colyton. The following are details of carcasses inspected over the year :—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered ...	272	12	943	148
Number inspected ...	272	12	902	148

### All diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned .	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	—	16	—
Percentage of all diseases except Tuberculosis ...	10.3%	—	2.25%	—

### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned .	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	16
Percentage of Tuberculosis only	.73%	—	—	10.8%

Also during the year the following food was condemned :—

Fresh Pork 41lb., Fresh Beef 421lb., Tinned Meat 112lb.13oz.,  
Frozen Salmon 3lb.8oz., Tinned Tomatoes 14oz., Tinned Fish 7oz.,  
Cooked Ham 77lb.4oz., Kippers 1 stone.

## Food and Drugs Act.

### 1. Number of Food Premises—

Type	No. in Area	No. inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers	45	19
(b) Butchers	10	10
(c) Bakers	9	9
(d) Fishmongers	5	5
(e) Confectioners	8	2
(f) Restaurants	14	11

### 2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	11
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only (pre-packed)	51
(c) Fish Frying	3

### 3. Inspection of Registered Premises—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	11
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only	27
(c) Fish Frying	3

### 4. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the area.

### 5. Disposal of Condemned Foods—

- (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
- (b) Meat—by incineration.

### 6. Nil.

### 7. Ice Cream.

No action has been necessary with regard to Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, as no ice cream is manufactured in the district.

## **8. Food Hygiene Regulations.**

During the past year further efforts have been made to ensure that the food premises in the district conform to the standards required under the Food Regulations ; in particular special attention has been given to the beach hut type of establishment serving beverages and light refreshments during the holiday season. It is appreciated that in these cases the provision of main services is not possible and the proprietors have been advised of the additional precautions which should be taken in handling food under restricted conditions.

## **Food Poisoning.**

There were three cases of food poisoning during the year : in each case the person concerned was a visitor to the district. The occurrence happened during the summer season and there appeared to be no common factor causing the food poisoning and in no case was a causative organism isolated.

## **Shops Act.**

Particular attention has been given to premises of the lock-up type and those used for seasonal purposes only. In many cases it has been found unreasonable to require the provision of sanitary accommodation, and, where suitable accommodation is readily available within easy access, Certificates of Exemption have been granted.

## **Milk and Dairies.**

In conjunction with the survey carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a review has been made of the milk distribution in the district. As a result, various licences have been issued to regulate the sale of designated milks and the use of registered premises.

## **Camping.**

The three main sites in the district are periodically inspected throughout the summer season and were found to be well controlled, satisfactorily maintained, and continue to improve so far as the public health standards apply to these sites.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Collection continues throughout the whole district, with weekly and fortnightly collections throughout the main districts and monthly collections in the outlying parts. A new refuse lorry (autodiesel) has been purchased, to replace a 20-year-old vehicle, and the low maintenance figures are at the moment enabling the cost of refuse collection to be maintained without increase.

The Membury dump has now been satisfactorily sealed off, and Beer is our main dump ; the Colyton dump is used, except throughout the summer months. The urgency and need for further dumping facilities are obvious.



## Rodent Control.

The part-time rodent operator continues to cover the district with periodical inspections and treatments where necessary.

During the year the following premises were inspected under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	28
Dwelling houses (including Council houses)	...	...	...	...	975
All other (including business premises)	...	...	...	...	326
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	247

## Housing.

It was hoped that the demolition of 72 Converted Dwellings at Millwey Rise, Axminster, would have started and the tenants been rehoused ; this project, however, had to be temporarily shelved owing to financial restrictions. It is hoped that when it is found practicable, attempts will be made to rid the district of these sub-standard dwellings.

The total number of Council houses controlled by my department so far as housing repairs and maintenance are concerned is now well over 1,000.

## Rent Act, 1957.

Following the introduction of the Rent Act, 1957, various applications have been made for the issue of Certificates of Disrepair. These have been almost entirely confined to dwelling-houses in the more populated residential areas and the necessary work of inspection and implementation of the statutory procedure has been embodied in the routine work of the department.

## Housing Acts, 1957.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses demolished	...	...	9
2. Total number of dwelling-houses closed	...	...	11
3a. Total number of houses rendered fit by formal notice	...	...	1
3b. Total number of houses rendered fit by informal notice	...	...	2

## Factories Act, 1937.

Factories	No. in Register	No. of Inspections
Mechanical ... ..	62	23
Non-Mechanical ... ..	6	4
Number of Outworkers	2	—

## General Inspections.

Disinfection following infectious diseases	...	...	4
Water Supplies (private and statutory undertakings)	...	...	29
Inspection of Drains	...	...	39
Condemned Foods, visits and re-visits	...	...	18
Petroleum Inspections	...	...	28
Public Health Act, Section 269 (Caravans)	...	...	16
Inspections—Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 91, etc.)	...	...	72
Rodent Inspections (by Public Health Inspectors)	...	...	16
Miscellaneous (Explosives Act, etc.)	...	...	9

L. H. WHITE,  
Public Health Inspector.

# HONITON BOROUGH

Area	...	...	...	...	3,125	acres
Population	...	...	...	...	4,770	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£61,027	
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£236	

## Deaths

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1956—(32 males, 16 females)	...	...	...	...	48
1957—(30 males, 28 females)	...	...	...	...	58

## Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1956—(36 males, 36 females)	...	...	...	...	72
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the total of 72.					
1957—(29 males, 28 females)	...	...	...	...	57
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the total of 57.					

## Still Births

1956—2 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	2
1957—0 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	0
No illegitimate births were notified.					

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1957—1 death was registered	...	...	...	...	1

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1957—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

## Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified :—

	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	9	47
Measles	42	3
Erysipelas	1	0
Pneumonia	17	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	5	3
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	0
	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 75

## Infectious Disease.

As will be noted from the chart, the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year totalled 75 as against 76 in 1956. There were no cases of Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning. The number of cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis, the most serious disease notified, dropped to 3 from the previous year's

total of 5. There was however a small increase in the number of cases of pneumonia. The health record taken as a whole was thus very good.

### **Bathing Facilities.**

The Allhallows Pool continues to be used by a limited number of school children and by the Swimming Club. It cannot be pretended that hand chlorination is a satisfactory method of dealing with swimming pools, and it is to be hoped that negotiations which are understood to be going on for the improvement of the swimming facilities, may prove successful.

### **Death Rate.**

The number of deaths occurring were 58 as compared with 48 in 1956. This is rather higher than last year but about the average.

### **Birth Rate.**

The number of births registered were 57 as compared with 72 in 1955. This is a very large decrease.

### **Lung Cancer.**

No deaths occurred from this disease, as compared with 2 in 1956.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1956	1957
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	0	0
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung ... ..	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	6	8
Leukaemia ... ..	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	7	7
Congenital Malformations ... ..	0	1
Other Heart Disease ... ..	6	9
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	1	2
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	0	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System ...	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	6	1
Motor Accident ... ..	2	1
Coronary Disease ... ..	7	13
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	7	2
Influenza ... ..	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach ... ..	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion ...	0	0
All other Accidents ... ..	0	0
Suicide ... ..	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	0	1
Nephritis ... ..	0	0
Gastritis ... ..	0	1
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 58

## **Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957**

### **Miscellaneous Information.**

Population Estimated ...	...	...	4,770
Acreage ...	...	...	3,125
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£61,160
Penny Rate product ...	...	...	£236
General Rate Levied ...	...	...	19/-

### **Council Houses.**

Permanent Pre-War Houses ...	...	137
Permanent Post-War Houses ...	...	204
Prefabricated Houses ...	...	12
<hr/>		
Total		353

### **Water Supplies.**

The supplying authority for water is the East Devon Water Board.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

There are two works in use, the Eastern works which takes the sewage from the main town area, and the War Department works used for Heathfield War Department Camp. An extensive improvement to the works is still being considered by the Council.

### **Refuse Collection.**

Weekly refuse collections are carried out in the Borough, and controlled tipping is carried out on land owned by the Council.

### **Rodent Control.**

A trained member of the outdoor staff is utilised for this service and no major infestations have been located during the year.

### **Public Conveniences.**

Public Conveniences are provided in the town and it is proposed to erect a new set of conveniences at Dowell Street Car Park.

### **Bakehouses.**

There are four bakehouses in the town—one being discontinued as such during the year.

### **Factories.**

There are 32 Factories on the Register. It was not found necessary to give any notices in respect of these premises.

### **Ice Cream Regulations.**

29 premises selling ice cream are registered. The hot mix method is not in use in this area.

## **Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Food.**

9 premises are registered.

## **Milk and Dairies Regulations.**

6 premises are registered as dairies.

## **Slaughterhouses.**

4 slaughterhouses are licensed in the Borough—three are small and one large dealing in export meat.

### **Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part**

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
<b>Number Inspected ... ..</b>	418	24	48	1082	12040

### **All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci**

Whole carcases condemned	2	1	—	10	15
Carcases of which some part was condemned ... ..	14	—	—	11	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	4.0	4.0	—	1.9	.25

### **Tuberculosis only**

Whole carcases condemned	4	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part was condemned ... ..	10	—	—	—	18
Percentage of number affected with tuberculosis ... ..	3.3	—	—	—	.6

### **Cysticercosis—Nil.**

## **Food Poisoning.**

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning in the Borough.

R. B. BAILEY,  
Public Health Inspector.



# HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	61,261	acres
Population	...	...	...	6,920	
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	22	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£52,375	
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£199	

## Infectious Disease

	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever	0	2
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	4	44
Measles	83	8
Pneumonia	10	11
Erysipelas	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Typhoid	0	1
	<hr/> 105	<hr/> 66

## Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1956—(28 males, 41 females)	...	...	...	69
1957—(43 males, 39 females)	...	...	...	82

## Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1956—(36 males, 43 females)	...	...	...	79
1957—(50 males, 44 females)	...	...	...	94

The number of illegitimate births registered was 3, and are included in the above total of 94.

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
1957—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
1957—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0

## Still Births

1956—3 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	3
1957—1 still birth was registered	...	...	...	1

## Births.

These show an increase, 94 as compared with 79 in 1956.

## Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 82, as compared with 69 in 1956.

The chief causes of death were :—	1956	1957
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	0	2
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	5	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung ... ..	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	2	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	4
Leukaemia ... ..	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	9	16
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	6	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	4
Other Heart Disease ... ..	8	17
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	3
Influenza ... ..	0	0
Duodenal Ulcer ... ..	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	3	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	3
Motor Accidents ... ..	0	0
Suicide ... ..	0	2
All Other Accidents ... ..	0	1
Nephritis ... ..	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0
Diarrhoea ... ..	2	0
Congenital Malformation ... ..	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	3	1
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 82

### Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases have been less prevalent than they were last year, principally owing to a decline in the number of cases of measles.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred during the year. The victim was a young farmer. No source from which he might have been infected could be discovered, nor did any of his contacts, nor any other person in East Devon, develop the disease.

### Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957

#### Refuse Collection.

Controlled tipping has continued on the Council's three refuse tips. Further notices have been served for the provision of regulation dustbins under the Public Health Act, 1936, and conditions with regard to collection have improved still further.

## **Rodent Control.**

Routine treatment of refuse tips and sewers has been carried out during the year together with the treatment of infestations on private premises. No heavy infestations have been noted, apart from one which concerned agricultural premises and was therefore referred to the Agricultural Committee.

## **Housing.**

A considerable drop in house construction took place during the past year. No Council houses were built and only two houses were erected by private enterprise. A number of premises were improved with the aid of improvement grants.

## **Water Supplies.**

Water supplies are maintained by the East Devon Water Board. It is understood that further mains extensions to Plymtree and Buckerell, etc., were completed.

## **Sewage Disposal.**

Considerable progress was made on sewerage schemes. The installation of specialist equipment from Adams-Hydraulics was completed at Plymtree early in the year, and a start was made on the Offwell scheme in May and this was in operation before Christmas, the only work outstanding being the final reinstatement of the roads. In addition, an Inquiry into the Payhembury Scheme was held and the scheme was approved in principle, and a further scheme for the parish of Gittisham was completed and submitted to the Ministry for consideration.

## **Food and Drugs Act.**

1. Number of Food Premises registered—23 General Stores.
2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—15 and 1 Dairy registered under the Milk and Dairy Regulations.
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises—36.
4. No action.
5. Method of disposal of condemned food—by incineration.
6. Nil.
7. Number of Premises registered under the Ice Cream Regulations—15.
8. No legal action was necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulation.

F. J. BAXFIELD,  
Public Health Inspector

# SEATON URBAN DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	1,178 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	2,950
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£59,033
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£224

## Deaths

1956—(25 males, 31 females)	...	...	...	...	56
1957—(16 males, 24 females)	...	...	...	...	40

## Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1956—(14 males, 15 females)	...	...	...	...	29
The number of illegitimate births registered was 3, and are included in the total of 29.					
1957—(3 males, 14 females)	...	...	...	...	27
The number of illegitimate births registered was 2, and are included in the total of 27.					

## Still Births

1956—3 were registered (includes one illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
1957—None were registered	...	...	...	...	0

## Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

1956—None were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1957—None were registered	...	...	...	...	0

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1956—None were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1957—None were registered	...	...	...	...	0

## Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Measles	1	0
Pneumonia	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	3
Diphtheria	0	0
Dysentery	2	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1
Food Poisoning	0	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 8

## Deaths.

The number of deaths registered from all causes were 40 as compared with 56 in 1956.

The causes of death were :—				1956	1957
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0
Other Tubercular Disease	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	6	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	10	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	6	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	2	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	14	8
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	2	0
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	0	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	1	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease	...	...	...	3	1
Accidents—Motor	...	...	...	0	0
Other Accidents	...	...	...	3	1
Suicide	...	...	...	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	0	0
Leukaemia	...	...	...	0	0
Homicide	...	...	...	1	0
				<hr/> 56	<hr/> 40

## Infectious Disease.

Once more the number of cases of Infectious Disease has been almost negligible. There were however three cases of poliomyelitis.

### Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957

The following visits either by myself or my Assistant (Mr. Karslake) have been made during the year :—

				Visits	Revisits	Total
<b>Public Health—General</b>	...	...	...	77	76	153
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	8	—	8
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	19	—	19
Camping	...	...	...	31	—	31
Complaints—Council Houses	...	...	...	108	13	121
Complaints—Others	...	...	...	30	8	38
Rodent Control	...	...	...	7	4	11
Water Supply and Waterworks	...	...	...	86	30	116
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	56	15	71
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	48	2	50
Shops Acts	...	...	...	5	6	11



### **Housing—**

Grants and General	...	...	...	22	3	25
Council Houses	...	...	...	173	42	215
Housing Sites	...	...	...	39	11	50
Regulations	...	...	...	12	42	54

### **Food and Drugs—**

Byelaws and Act	...	...	...	39	45	84
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	3	—	3
Meat and Food Examination	...	...	...	12	—	12
<b>Building Byelaws and Planning</b>	...	...	...	191	—	191
Drains Tested	...	...	...	69	—	69

### **General—**

Meteorological Readings	...	...	...	365	—	365
Highways and Public Lighting	...	...	...	180	—	180
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	...	245	—	245
Petroleum Regulations and Explosives	...	...	...	20	4	24
Factories with Power	...	...	...	1	—	1
Factories without Power	...	...	...	17	—	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	274	—	274
Interviews	...	...	...	573	—	573
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				2710	301	3011

### **Housing.**

During the year 16 one-bedroom flats for old people were started on the Manor Road Site. 25 privately owned houses were built and finished and 15 units of accommodation were provided by conversion out of 5 large houses or stables—one property with the aid of a grant from the Council.

Statutory action was taken under the Housing Acts in respect of 4 houses which were unfit and not repairable at a reasonable expense and in each case the owners undertook not to relet the houses until they had been made fit, and in one case the matter was left in abeyance, the cottage being occupied by an aged person. The Council also declared 3 houses in a terrace to be a clearance area.

Six other properties were fully inspected and reported upon under the Housing Acts, but following an inspection by members of the Housing Committee the Council decided to take no action in the matter.

### **Improvement Grants.**

One grant was paid in respect of improvements to a farm cottage.

### **Water Supply.**

The quality of the water has been consistently excellent and no complaints were received.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

The sewer in Fore Street collapsed in one place and this sewer continues to cause anxiety. The Sewage works, though working to full capacity, continues to function satisfactorily.

### **Dairies and Food Shops.**

I have nothing to add to my report of last year except to say that inspections under the Food Hygiene regulations continue to be made, and whenever alterations to food premises are proposed, every endeavour is made to see that those premises are so improved as to comply with the regulations.

### **Refuse Collection.**

The amount of refuse has quite definitely increased. This is due to the additional refuse to be collected from caravan and camping sites, and also the increased bulk of waste from business premises.

### **Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts.**

There were 31 notices served together with 10 brought forward from 1956. 37 were complied with informally and 2 following statutory notices leaving a balance of 2 notices outstanding.

### **Rodents.**

Rats were dealt with by the Rodent Officer in 26 properties. There are no major infestations. The treatment of rats in sewers has periodic attention under the guidance of the Ministry's Inspector.

### **General.**

I have pleasure in acknowledging the very able help given by my Assistant Public Health Inspector, W. H. Karslake.

P. R. BRADLEY,  
Public Health Inspector.









